



Metropolitan Radio Board

Metropolitan Counties Government Center
2099 University Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-643-8395 • 651-645-3246 (fax)

www.MetroRadioBoard.org

December 15, 2003

Dave McCauley, Chair
dave.mccauley@co.anoka.mn.us
763-323-5700

Bill Dean, Executive Director
bill.dean@metroradioboard.org
651-643-8395

Jill Rohret, Assistant Director
jill.rohret@metroradioboard.org
651-643-8394

Board Members

Marvin Johnson, Vice Chair

Veidols Muiznieks, Secretary

Dick Stafford, Treasurer

Richard Aguilar

Patrice Bataglia

Tony Bennett

Dan Bostrom

Del Haag

Natalie Johnson Lee

Pat McGowan

Steve Peterson

Penny Steele

Andy Terry

Kent Therkelsen

Bob Vogel

Tom Workman

Roger Laurence, Ex officio

Council Member Barret Lane
City of Minneapolis
350 South Fifth Street
City Hall, Room 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Council Member Lane:

At the December meeting of the Metropolitan Radio Board the Board adopted its legislative program for 2004.

The most important single issue for the Board is that of the survival of the Board itself. Current law sunsets the Board on June 30, 2004. The Board's position, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee and following an affirmative vote of the full Board, is that the Board should not sunset, but should be made permanent. In other words, the current sunset should be removed.

There are a number of reasons that members cited for supporting this position. Most of them are encapsulated in the attached list entitled, "Why the Metropolitan Radio Board Should Continue."

I have enclosed a model resolution that builds a case for the Board's continuation. It is based on many of the same arguments.

Please ask your governing body or organization to pass a resolution of support for the Board's position. Also please feel free to change the model resolution as you see fit. The bullet points in the attachment can also be used as a list of "talking points" for members and other supporters of our position.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Bill Dean
Executive Director

Why the Metropolitan Radio Board Should Continue

- Local government spending of property tax dollars has overshadowed state spending on the *shared* system. Therefore local elected officials that represent equity owners have a right to representation on the system's governing body
- The high level of interdependence among users requires *local* input and support for the procedures and policies that are set
- The Minnesota governance model has worked especially well and is internationally respected and admired
- Technical cooperation is required for a shared system to function effectively. The MRB's operating committees ensure such cooperation
- Unburdened by multiple departments and a large bureaucracy, the Radio Board can often act more efficiently and in a timely manner in negotiating leases and making purchases
- The Radio Board has years of experience in the process of assisting locals to come on to the system. A transfer of power at this time would take up precious time unnecessarily and could squander the substantial resources already in place
- Eliminating the Board would eliminate the local voice in allocating the 9-1-1 surcharge funds that flow to the Board
- The Board's independent lobbying efforts for additional federal funds have been successful and effective
- The Board has developed and delivered valuable scenario-based training for dispatchers and users. The Board's control of the 9-1-1 surcharge dollars insures that training receives a high priority
- The Board, defined in statute as a local unit of government, is required by law to conduct all its business in public and is subject to the provisions of the open meetings law
- The MRB operates in open meetings. There is no such requirement for the Statewide Planning Committee

Conclusion: It is vital to the health of the system that the governance structure currently in place for the metropolitan area continue. Once the metro system is complete, a structure analogous to the MRB should be created to protect the interests of out-state locals.

REFERRED TO (NAME OF) COMMITTEE:
DATE:

RESOLUTION of the CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Lane

By

Supporting legislation to remove the sunset that causes the Metropolitan Radio Board to cease existence on June 30, 2004.

Whereas, local government spending of property tax dollars by participating units of government has overshadowed state spending on the *shared* Minnesota Metro Public Safety Communication System; and

Whereas, local elected officials that represent equity owners have a right to representation on the system's governing body; and

Whereas, the high level of interdependence among users requires *local* input and support for the procedures and policies that are set for the system; and

Whereas, the Metropolitan Radio Board governance model has worked especially well and is internationally respected and admired; and

Whereas, technical cooperation is required for a shared system to function effectively and the Metropolitan Radio Board's operating committees ensure such cooperation; and

Whereas, unburdened by multiple departments and a large bureaucracy, the Metropolitan Radio Board can often act more efficiently and in a timely manner in negotiating leases and contracts and in making purchases; and

Whereas, the Metropolitan Radio Board's eight years of experience in the process of assisting local units to come on to the system and a transfer of power at this time would take up precious time unnecessarily and could squander substantial resources already in place; and

Whereas, eliminating the Board would eliminate the local voice in allocating the 9-1-1 surcharge funds that flow to the Board; and

Whereas, the Board's independent efforts to secure additional federal funds have been successful and effective; and

Whereas, the Board has developed and delivered valuable scenario-based training for dispatchers and users and the Board's control of the 9-1-1 surcharge dollars insures that training receives a high priority; and

Whereas, the Board, defined in statute as a local unit of government, is required by law to conduct all its business in public and is subject to the provisions of the open meetings law; and;

Whereas, for the reasons state above, the City of Minneapolis has determined that it is vital to the success of the Minnesota Metro Public Safety Communication System that the governance structure currently in place for the metropolitan area continue indefinitely;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis supports legislation to remove the sunset that causes the Metropolitan Radio Board to cease existence on June 30, 2004, and to make the Metropolitan Radio Board the permanent governing body for the Minnesota Metro Public Safety Communication System.

Certified as an official action of the City Council:

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE (X INDICATES VOTE)													
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	NOT VOTING	ABSENT	VOTE TO OVERRIDE	VOTE TO SUSTAIN	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	NOT VOTING	ABSENT	VOTE TO OVERRIDE	VOTE TO SUSTAIN
President Ostrow							Goodman						
							Lilligren						
Zerby							Schiff						
Samuels							Niziolek						
Johnson							Benson						
Johnson Lee							Colvin Roy						
Zimmermann							Lane						

PASSED _____
DATE

☐ APPROVED ☐ NOT APPROVED ☐ VETOED

ATTEST _____
CITY CLERK

MAYOR DATE